

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 315

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to increased funding for the immunizations program under the Public Health Service Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. GREENWOOD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to increased funding for the immunizations program under the Public Health Service Act.

Whereas vaccines protect children and adults from over 15 serious and potentially fatal diseases;

Whereas society saves up to \$24 in medical and societal costs for every dollar spent on vaccines;

Whereas every day, 11,000 American babies are born—4 million each year—and each child needs up to 19 doses of vaccine by age 2;

Whereas approximately 1,000,000 two-year-olds in the United States have not received all of the recommended vaccine doses;

Whereas in order to provide grants to States and communities for the purchase of vaccines and the management of vaccine activity, the Congress created the immunization program under section 317(j) under the Public Health Service Act, administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas under the immunization program, Federal grants to States and communities for operations and infrastructure have declined from \$271,000,000 in 1995 to \$139,000,000 in 2000;

Whereas because of these funding reductions and cost increases, States are struggling to maintain immunization rates and have implemented severe cuts to immunization delivery activities including canceling contracts with providers under WIC (the Federal program for women, infants, and children), private providers, and community health centers and community coalitions; and these funding reductions and cost increases have caused severe reductions in registry development and maintenance and have caused reductions in clinic hours and the delivery of immunizations;

Whereas despite overall gains in the number of children being immunized, underimmunized children exist and there are a number of subpopulations where coverage rates remain low and are actually declining, and rates in many of the Nation's urban areas, including the cities of Chicago and Houston, are unacceptably low;

Whereas these pockets of need create pools of susceptible children and increase the risk of dangerous disease outbreaks;

Whereas increased funding is needed to allow States to meet immunization goals; and

Whereas the Congress should fund the immunization program under section 317(j) of the Public Health Service Act at a level sufficient to allow States to meet immunization targets: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that
 3 \$214,000,000 should be appropriated for fiscal year 2001
 4 to carry out infrastructure and delivery activities under
 5 section 317(j) of the Public Health Service Act.

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